



Lent Rise Matters – the info sheet for

Lent Rise Methodist Church

THIS WEEK

Sunday 11th February we welcome Kathy Rickman at 10:30am

Next Sunday 18th February: Circuit Service at St. Andrew's. This is something which we have now done for three years, with worship being led by the worship band "Testify". The group includes the son of Peter Morris who many of you will remember as an active member of the church at Eton Wick, and they lead us with energy and joy. Two years ago the service was based around the music of Johnny Cash at High Street, and last year they were at Windsor, leading a blues style service. We will expect something similar in their worship at St. Andrew's. Although we understand that it is difficult to close churches on a Sunday morning, there is a lot to be said for gathering as a circuit, and many people have been encouraged by full churches on these circuit days. The staff team and I hope that this will be the situation this year as we gather at St. Andrew's, Slough.

Prayer Cards

If you would like to ask for prayer for a specific person or event, please complete a prayer card, to be found on the table at the entrance to the Church.

Please hold in your prayers: Jo, Andrew and Peter Webb, Joanne Prior; Ed; George, Liz and family; Keith and Hilary; Marilyn and Bill; Julia; Pat; Angel's family.

If you are new here today and would like to keep in touch please look out for one of our yellow Welcome Cards, enter your details and hand the card to a Steward.

This week in Burnham Methodist Church:

Monday Club for Senior Citizen's from Burnham Community Association. For more information call Steve Tindall 07780 665910

Tuesday LentRisers Toddler Group offers a warm welcome to parents and carers of children from birth to school age. If you are reading this and would like to get involved in helping the group please contact Pauline.

Wednesday The Meeting Place from The Well@Lent Rise from 9:30am – 12midday. A place for all ages to come and simply be, with coffee or tea, cake and a special warm welcome.

Thursday CAMEO lunch club for Senior Citizen's from 12:00midday. For more information or to book please speak to Jo Webb.

Bible Study, led by Revd Vicci. 10:00am – 12:00pm. Next meeting Friday 16th February. Vicci is on leave this week and the session will be led by Pauline. We are looking at "Spiritual Needs" and the group found the first session What are Spiritual Needs interesting, if challenging

...something we all need from time to time. The group is open to anyone who has an interest in furthering their personal Faith journey.

Dates for your diary

Friday 1st March World Day of Prayer – 2:00pm. We are hosting this annual event this year. The theme is Palestine, and we will be decorating the Church and providing refreshments. If anyone (1) has a small olive tree or artificial olive branches they could loan for decoration that would be lovely: (2) has any ideas about typical Palestinian/Middle Eastern food that is easy to prepare please speak to Pauline or Hilary: (3) if you would be available and like to take part in the Service please speak to Pauline.

Lent Bible Study at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, led by Revd Vicci Davidson (Methodist minister at Cookham Rise).

Stanley Spencer, well-loved Cookham painter, produced a series of works entitled "Christ in the Wilderness" during the period encompassing the second world war and through to the end of rationing (1939 - 1954). They show Jesus' understanding of his ministry and vocation as well as a love for Creation in a new and vivid way.

This Lent, we will be using Stephen Cottrell's reflections on five of these paintings as we explore what it was like for Christ in the wilderness, and what it means to us to be his disciples today.

The study will be on Tuesdays at 2:30 for an hour and a half running on the following dates;

27th February

5th March

12th March

19th March

26th March - this final study in the series will take place at Cookham Rise Methodist Church, Lower Road, SL6 9HJ as the gallery will be closed for the hanging of a new exhibition.

Saturday June 22nd – St Peter's Church, Burnham are organising a coach trip to Wintershall, The Life of Christ. The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious. The cost will be max of £50 which includes a £35 ticket. If you would like to go, please contact Pauline with a £20 deposit by Sunday 18th February to secure a place.

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-2024>

We have a Church website page <https://www.burnhammethodistchurch.com> worth a look if you want to see what's going on, in our Church and around the Circuit.

Many of us are shopping online these days and the Church has signed up to a site through which some of our most loved retailers will give us a donation every time we shop.

Sign up and help us raise funds by:

1. Visit the link below
2. Search for Burnham Methodist Church
3. Your favourite brands will donate when you shop with them. This includes Booking.com; ebay; M&S; Curry's; TUI; BT and John Lewis

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause

Prayer pointers for the coming week from The Vine: Please let me know if you find these useful. If I get no responses I will not send them 😊

Monday 12th February - What is your favourite song or piece of music? What about it inspires or encourages you? - Listen to it now. Is there a way that you can hear some of the notes, or the words, or both, as a prayer? - Thank you Lord, for the music of our lives.

Tuesday 13th February - Pour a glass of water. Think about the things you do that get in the way of your relationship with God. You might think it muddies the water of your life, but God forgives us for all these things, and offers us living water. - Drink some of the water and give thanks for the way God reaches out to you with love and forgiveness.

Wednesday 14th February - A number of years ago, for Valentine's Day, the Climate Coalition – a group of charities and organisations committed to working to tackle the climate crisis – made this short film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zD3YxrZdyzo> - Watch the film. Reflect on the challenging and inspiring words about creation, and reflect on how you can #ShowTheLove for the planet this Valentine's Day and beyond.

Thursday 15th February - On this day in 2003, over 600 protest marches to the war on Iraq happened around the world, with estimates of up to 30 million people taking part. - Today, let our prayers be for peace in our world, and for all who work, campaign and advocate to make that a reality.

Friday 16th February - Living, loving God, thank you for your love for me. Thank you that by your love, I am forgiven, accepted, set free. - Help me to live a life that is not burned by my own guilt and shame, but rather is born of the freedom I am afforded by your love. - This day, help me to spread my wings. Amen.

Vicci's Thought for the week: Friends

There are certain rules about committees. Sometimes, the things that you think will take a short time take a long one and vice versa. Sometimes the compromises that are made in order to try to honour everyone's input can remind you of the old adage that a camel is a horse made by a committee. Sometimes you wonder why being a grown-up felt like such a good idea when you were a child. But usually, I am a fan of committees. The joint impact of everyone's input, thinking and questioning is often helpful and always important, and after all, a camel is a pretty useful kind of animal.

The ancient Hebrew's idea of heaven was a legal committee, with the devil making representations as to the evil side of human nature (a sort of council for the prosecution) while on the other side someone (who we would see as Jesus) was the advocate for the defence. The angels formed a heavenly committee and God was Father, Spirit and "one like unto a son of man" stood at his right hand side. I realise that I may be giving some of you the screaming heebie-jeebies, but the Old Testament version of heaven looks an awful lot like a Methodist Church Council!

Jesus also chose to have a group of people to work with in the twelve disciples. It is in the context of this committee that Peter makes the declaration that Jesus is the Messiah. The difference of course, is that if I turned to a member of Church Council and declared "You are the rock upon which I will build this church" they would point out that they are already doing quite enough foundational stuff, thank you very much. But for all we bemoan some of the difficulties in the working out of life through church committees, they allow us to lean on each other's strengths and question long-held suppositions in a supportive environment and that is a very Godly thing to be doing. Whether the committee on which you serve is convened to discuss the pastoral needs of the church, or the fabric needs of the building or the financial and operational needs of the whole structure, still that gathering and thinking on behalf of the worshipping community is a worthwhile endeavour.

No-one ever said that the path to heaven was paved with committee meetings, but they are a part of the road-building process. Thank you to all of you who do now, or have in the past, served on a Church committee, you deserve your crowns in heaven!

God bless, Vicci